

5 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Report of Visit to NSA and Trip to [REDACTED]

1. On 27 April the undersigned accompanied by [REDACTED], OC-S attended a meeting at NSA which was called for the purpose of discussing our plans concerning the development of an all mechanical two tape combiner/printer. Our plans concerning this development program had actually had been made known to NSA several months ago. However, no interest was shown at the time. Our plans were reviewed at this point and a drawing illustrating component configuration was shown to the NSA representatives present. We also advised the group that we had obtained a quotation from [REDACTED] concerning the development costs and were planning to negotiate a contract in the immediate future. At this point [REDACTED] one of the NSA representatives, asked whether there would be any objection on our part if NSA were to advise the various branches of the Armed Services of our plans and query them as to any interest for such a device. It was explained that NSA had already queried the services concerning the HW-20, a mechanical two tape combiner but that it was now believed that it was possible that the device we were planning to have developed would be more attractive because of the features we were incorporating which are not present in the HW-20. We were also asked if we would obtain from [REDACTED] an addendum to our quotation which would outline costs involved for the production of 2, 3 and 4 units. We assured the group that we would have no objection to NSA querying the services for possible interest and we agreed to obtain the additional prices as requested. It was pointed out that this was a CIA development program and that the prototypes would be built according to our specifications.

2. The next topic of discussion concerned the radiation hazards of the HW-20 and the tests conducted by the [REDACTED]

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The problem of power line loading in this unit had been overcome by installing a fly wheel on the motor. The problem of accoustical radiations, however, was more difficult and has not yet been overcome though various methods had been tried. [REDACTED] the NSA project engineer on the development of the HW-20 indicated that he was planning to visit [REDACTED] on 28 and 29 April on NSA business and it was suggested that the undersigned meet him at [REDACTED] on the 29th and discuss these problems with [REDACTED] engineering personnel and see if it would not be possible to eliminate these problems in our unit.

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3. Arrangements were made with cognizant [REDACTED] personnel and on 29 April the undersigned visited [REDACTED] for the purpose outlined above. The radiation problems were outlined for [REDACTED] the engineer who had been responsible for the building of the HW-20 and who would be responsible for the design and building of our combiner/printer. [REDACTED] pointed out that in the HW-20 the accoustical radiation was emanating from the tape perforating section of the unit. Detailed examination of a similar unit indicated that there were two or three places in the unit where striking surfaces could possibly create enough noise to result in the pickup of readable text. [REDACTED] suggested various methods of eliminating these noise sources and he believed that exact source could possibly be pinpointed. [REDACTED] stated that he would have these ideas checked at [REDACTED] upon his return to Washington. Results of these tests as well as any other pertinent information relative to the problem will be turned over to us for forwarding to [REDACTED] If necessary arrangements will be made for [REDACTED] to visit [REDACTED] and discuss the problem further. As far as power line loading is concerned [REDACTED] was sure that a fly wheel with spring coupling could be incorporated in our unit. Again, information relative to size, weight and coupling of the fly wheel on the HW-20 will be made available. After completing discussions described above, the [REDACTED] representatives were advised of the possible interest on the part of NSA with regard to the combiner/printer and asked to submit a quotation covering the cost of 2, 3 and 4 units. It was explained that should any interest develop, an order for additional units would not be forthcoming until, after 1 July 1959, and that in the meantime we would proceed with an order for the production of 1 prototype unit. An order for additional units and the resultant lower cost per unit will be reflected in our contract being amended accordingly.

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